

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 21, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Elias Gomez, who was charged under the a.k.a. of Francisco Pedrosa-Lopez, was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego based upon his conviction for being a deported alien found in the United States. United States District Judge Roger T. Benitez sentenced Pedrosa to serve 70 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Gomez was found guilty on October 12, 2007, after a jury trial. In imposing the sentence, Judge Benitez found that Gomez's 1987 conviction for assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer constituted an "aggravated felony" and justified a significant increase to his sentence.

According to the evidence presented at trial, Gomez was arrested on April 29, 2007, near Tecate, California, by an agent from the United States Border Patrol. The agent observed Gomez walking north from State Route 94 through a rugged, unpopulated area, approximately one half mile north and six miles east of the Tecate, California Port of Entry. The agent pursued Gomez through the rugged terrain, until he apprehended and arrested Gomez for being in the United States illegally.

The case was investigated by the United States Border Patrol.

DEFENDANT

Case Number 07CR1369-BEN

Elias Gomez, charged as Francisco Pedrosa-Lopez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a) and (b) (Deported alien found in the United States)

AGENCY

Department of Homeland Security, United States Border Patrol